Toxic gases in air in Delhi

1706. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the presence of toxic gases in Delhi's air has come down significantly during this year, corresponding to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to supply low sulphur diesel in the Capital; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is due to various measures taken to bring down pollution in Delhi which include adoption of stringent emission norms, improvement in fuel quality and vehicle technology, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, promotion of use of clean fuel, optimisation of traffic flow and development of road infrastructure, closure of polluting and hazardous industrial units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) is being supplied in entire Delhi from 1.4.1998. Further, it has been planned to extend supply of extra low sulphur diesel (0.05%) at select retail outlets in the Capital for new private (non-commercial) vehicles conforming to Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II norms registered in the National Capital Region (NCR) from 1.4.2000.

Pollution by Power Plants, Industries and Vehicles

1707. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power plants, industries and vehicles are the biggest source of pollution;

(b) whether the growth rates of these polluting factors is high due to the imperatives of economic growth; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government for long term resolution of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power plants, industries and vehicles are the major source of pollution. Due to increase in economic activities, the number of power plants, industries and vehicles are increasing which may result in increase in the pollution levels if proper control measures are not adopted.

(c) The Government have taken the various steps for long term resolution of the problem which include the following:—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ii) Highly polluting industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound basis and legal action has been taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) Under the World Bank Scheme, 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been provided subsidy which are at various stages of implementation.

(iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment.

(v) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.

(vi) Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for sitting of industries.

(vii) In order to augment the quantum of fly ash utilization in the manufacturing of building materials in construction activities and for other uses, a notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued on 31.12.1999.

(viii) Considering the various environmental problems caused due to use of high ash content coal in thermal power plants, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has brought out a notification specifying

that thermal power plants located at a distance of more than 1000 Kms. from the pit head shall use beneficiated coal with an ash content exceeding 34% on an annual average basis with effect from 1.6.2001.

(ix) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport in various urban areas.

(x) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(xi) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(xii) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented.

(xiii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(xiv) A number of documentaries and films have been sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for educating the general public for taking measures to protect the environment and control pollution. These documentaries/films are shown on Doordarshan and other channels.

(xv) The Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Pollution Control Board have launched their own web sites for the dissemination of information on environmental related issues.

Top Ten Contributors of Pollution

1708. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):(a) The top 10 categories of